

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1904

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG: A DECISION CONCERNING THE REMAINS?

REF: PEKING 1873

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT WOULD BE DONE WITH
REMAINS OF CHAIRMAN MAO, MFA AMERICAS AND OCEANIA DEVISION
DEPUTY DIRECTOR WU FANEWU TOLD AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SEPT 23
THAT "ACCORDING TO WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING (OR: THE UNOFFICIAL
WORD IS), THE REMAINS ARE TO BE PRESERVED."

2. SEVERAL EMBASSIES HAVE HAD HINTS FROM CHINESE STAFF
MEMBERS THAT MAO'S REMAINS, LIKE HIS GLORY, IT WOULD BE EVER-

LASTING. WU IS HIGH RANKING ENOUGH, AND CAUTIOUS ENOUGH,
THAT HIS COMMENT PROBABLY CAN BE TAKEN AS REFLECTING AN
OFFICIAL DECISION NOT TO CREMATE THE REMAINS. CHINESE HAVE
NOT SO FAR AS WE KNOW GIVEN FOREIGNERS AN ANSWER TO ANOTHER
QUESTIION ON WHICH DIPLOMATICS AND JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN SPECU-
LATING, NAMELY WHETHER THERE WILL BE MAUSOLEUM AND IF SO
WHERE WILL IT BE BUILT.

3. ANOTHER, POSSIBLY PERTINENT MORTUARY ITEM.
AUSTRALIANS RECENTLY PICKED UP A STORY IN
SHANGHAI THAT A SHANGHAI GLASS FACTORY, UPON HEARING OF
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PREMIER CHOU'S DEATH LAST JANUARY, IMMEDIATELY CABLED

TO PEKING THAT IT HAD THE CAPABILITY TO MANUFACTURE A
HERMETICALLY SEALED CASKET SHOULD THE CENTER DECIDE TO
EMBALM CHOU.
GATES

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Message Attributes

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